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Supporting The Local Economy

Monday
January 21, 2013

SPECIAL EARLY EDITION

Morris Mirror causes firestorm with it's 'Thumbs Down' two sentence editorial



...from Canada's largest paper, The Toronto Star, to media outlets everywhere, the single paragraph is being discussed openly & vigorously.



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Contact Cheryl Waldner

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ABOUT OCCASIONAL PERMITS

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2013
7:00 P.M.
Southern Manitoba Convention Centre
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Morris, Manitoba

MLCC representatives will review the rules and regulations, including the duties and responsibilities of banquet hall owners and permittees.

A Question & Answer period will follow.

For further information call the MLCC Permit Department at 1-888-898-6522.

We Look Forward to Seeing You!

www.mlcc.mb.ca

MLCC

Morris Chamber Meetings needs more attendance

At the first meeting in January, the Morris Chamber of Commerce met at Santa Lucia for their regular monthly meeting.

Susan Chartier went over her Treasurer Report and told us that the School Fundraiser sold $530 in Chamber Bucks but that overall the Chamber was over budget in general.

Cheryl Crick, Administrative Assistant reported on updates being made to the website and Facebook as new memberships, emails change and the recent facebook contest.

Andy Anderson advised that all of the membership renewals were out having been emailed mostly to members and mailed to some that had no emails. All membership dues are payable now.

Marilyn Gitzel from SMCC advised they were slower right now but welcomed the break. She also advised that the Dessert Theatre last year brought 141 in attendance and 184 to the Dinner Theatre. There are a lot of new events coming up in 2013 with *Those Guys* coming to Morris on February 23rd and the Winnipeg Philharmonic Choir on March 17th. The Morris Choir will be the opening act for this concert and will sing a few songs with the Winnipeg Choir.

The RBC Wealth Management are looking at doing a presentation in Morris. This would relate to businesses running their business and the transition out of their businesses and into retirement. This is a 30 minute presentation that has been developed specifically for the Chamber of Commerce. There is no cost. A date of February 21st was discussed as well as an appropriate time. Most in attendance felt that a 5:30 start rather than a noon session would be better for most business owners. This will be discussed with RBC representative before making it public.

Maps of Morris are still up in the air with Ed Voth, Lisa Wiebe and Bruce Third working with Shayne at Graphic Intuitions to sell advertising for them.

Welcome Packages to new members were discussed with free membership for a year and 3 free lunches to attend meetings as part of the incentive to bring out people to the Chamber Lunch meetings. More discussion on getting Chamber members and businesses to lunch meetings ensued. How do we get people out to these meetings? We need their input on issues affecting them. An Advertising Marketing Program should be looked at during the Annual Strategic Planning Session with other Chambers advising of their initiatives was the consensus

2nd annual 2013 Winter Mayhem

The Town of Morris will be having their 2nd annual 2013 Winter Mayhem at the Southern Manitoba Convention Centre on Saturday, February 9th. Things will start off with a Pancake Breakfast by Youth for Christ from 9:30am to 11:30am followed by a Family Fun Ice Fishing Tournament at 10am until 2pm which you may register by calling Melinda at 746-8785.

A Family Fun Stick Curling is scheduled for 11am and Scott at 746-2110 is taking registration for that event. There will also be Public Skating at the indoor rink from 11:30 until 12:30pm and 2:15 until 3:15. The Morris Skating Club will be doing a Can Skate Demo from 1 until 2pm.

Between 3 and 6pm the Morris Fire Department is hosting a Bonfire and Wiener Roast; Rempel Insurance is having Heated Horse Wagon Rides and Snowmobile Rides will be available from the Racoons Club.

Snow and Ice Sculpting will also be present weather permitting.

The outdoor rink will be available for public skating and shinny all day. There will be Snow Games with prizes to be won by the Access Credit Union and a Family Fun Hockey Tournament between 3:30 and 7pm with registration through Angela at 746-6622.



A bantam hockey game will be played between 7:30 and 9pm.

There will be much more including Kids Activities with Inflatable Fun sponsored by Morris Big Way and Face Painting from 9:30am and a Family Movie to be announced, at the Crocus Hall at 7:30pm.

Calling all those 55+ seniors

The Morris Area Senior Services in partnership with the Morris Area Recreation Commission have invited a variety of organizations to participate in a one day Fair to provide an opportunity for the public to discover the many resources available.

They will have a special informational session from Safety Aid who deals with Crime & Falls Prevention and Prevention of Abuse of Older Adults. This event has been made possible by the Senior's New Horizons Grant and the Central Regional Health Authorities. It is free with door prizes and lunch provided. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Twenty-five tables along with special speakers at 1pm will greet those who attend. There will be many different speakers (see ad on page 2). The event is sponsored by New Horizons for Seniors programs and Regional Health. For further information, contact Cheryl

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Morris Mirror ...our Point of View

"The words that affect us most are the ones that inspire mankind to think for themselves" - Reed Turcotte (1991)

Protest is a way of life

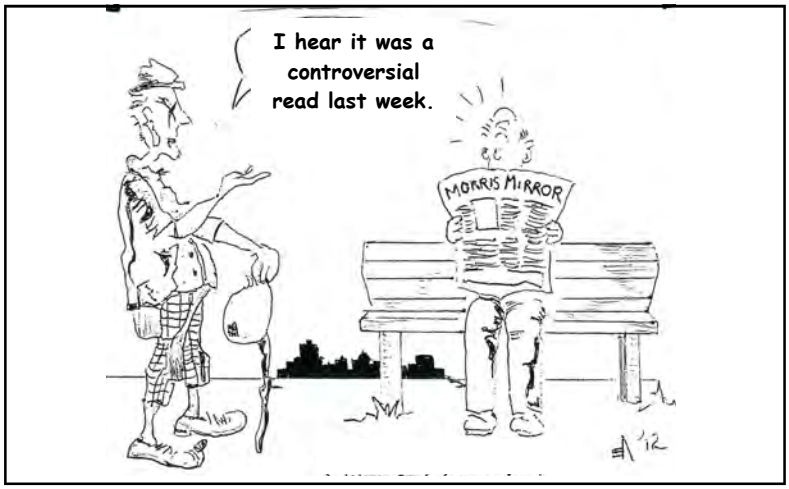
A small two sentence paragraph touched off a firestorm at the *Morris Mirror* last week as many took offence with a Thumbs Down comment on our editorial page.

The *Mirror* was flooded with emails that were both threatening and informative at the same time. A small group of individuals who have never been 'friends of the paper' also took this opportunity to try and seek revenge through various means.

This publication is not against any one group of individuals and/or nationalities and we believe in free speech as long as violence and illegal blockades do not take place. We also believe that citizens, whether they are Native or otherwise have the right to protest and try and make their lives better.

The Indigenous people of Canada have indeed suffered over the past 100 years but it is up to the Government of Canada to try and get things right with them not the *Morris Mirror*.

Idle No More is an on-going protest movement to improve the Native's lifestyle but a recent Ipsos Reid survey for Postmedia News and Global TV showed most believe that the problems of Indigenous Peoples are brought upon themselves and Reserves should not get more federal funds until independent auditors can review their books. The survey also found that 64% of respondents think that Native Canadians get too much support from the Taxpayers.



Emails & letters to the Editor
morrismirror@hotmail.com

Apology weak & meaningless

Dear editor: As Mayor of the Town of Morris, I would like to condemn in the strongest way possible your inappropriate and racist comments in your latest edition. Contrary to what your publication claims, this does not reflect the views of the local community. Morris is a lot better than that. Further your apology in the online edition was weak and meaningless.

Editor's Note: We have not used 'reflect the views of the local community.' for almost a year now. Rather the tag line on the front page says 'supporting the local economy'.

Common decency

Dear Editor, I'm sorry, you have yet again crossed the line of common decency! Actually we are getting tired of your crude and unkind and racist stuff you print in this paper...We get the feeling that you are not here to be nice! Ken and Esther Loewen

Dear van der Linde's in-laws - The purpose of this publication is to tell the truth and present it in an honorable way which we failed to do in our last issue and apologize for our insensitivity.

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MANAGING EDITOR & V.P. FINANCE: *Lorraine Ayotte-Turcotte*

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Nothing wrong with Cartoon

I dont see anything wrong at all with the cartoon. “Indians/Natives want it all". Well who doesn’t?

"but corruption and laziness prevent some of them from working for it." I completely agree 100% "Acting like terrorists in their own country" comment however is over the line. Protests+blockades and driving planes into skyscapers are worlds apart.

I am Native but that does not mean much to me because I was raised white. My philosophy is to let things be and when trouble comes to my door, I deal with it.

You however like to stir things up. I guess that is part of running a newspaper. I used to work at a newspaper, so I understand. Don’t make it personal, good luck. **Teddy**

Printing what Canadians are saying

I had seen your story on CTV news this morning and commend you for saying/printing what the majority of Canadians are thinking and feeling. You got flack for speaking the truth but with the Barricade in Portage you can hear them say "go home white man". They find that acceptable? Just like the other conquered lands, Canada is no different.

I have more respect for the American Indian since they are self sufficient and don't abuse the system. Perhaps it's time for Manitoba non native residents to start a movement called "enough is enough".

With the abuse, disrespect, high taxes that we pay to support their programs it's time for change. Why should their children get free education while I have to save for years to send mine. Keep up the great work and again about time someone spoke up. Best regards, **Brad** Winnipeg

Accountability

Just to let you know I applaud you thumbs down comment and your cartoon. Someone who actually understands the problem and wrote the truth about it. Northern Ontario faces the same problems. I don't feel throwing money at the problem is the cure but accountably and auditing are. Thanks again, **Ray Danis**

Somebody has the guts to stand up

Good job on writing the truth about the Indians at least somebody has the guts to stand up against them. **Myrna Waldner**

B.S. Movement

Good for you I agree with your article 100% if the Indians would put as much effort into employment as they have for this movement. **G. Paul**

Supportive of what we wrote

87 year old **Bill Gregory** from Brandon Manitoba called the *Mirror*. “I am supportive of what you wrote in your newspaper. It is sad when we (*Mirror*) make a comment and it is considered racist.”

If they had jobs

I heard on the news this morning about your article regarding aboriginals being lazy.. I would just like to say congratulations for having the guts to say what everyone else is thinking. Maybe if they had jobs they would be too busy to set up road blocks etc. Thanks again for having the balls to tell it how it is. **Terry**

Go back to Germany?

I am glad that you decided to respond, although as of this moment, I checked and your publication remains untouched. So I suggest that if you actually did alter it slightly, you should probably upload it to your site.

As far as your "point of view" goes, it sucks monkey balls and I can say that I feel ashamed that you are part of the human race. Go back to Germany and live your life the way you want there you nazi. I think most people either bury their head in the sand or are all together just stupid. Do you even know why the natives are protesting right now? Did you ever bother to check? How would you like it if the government could just walk in, take your land and tell you that its too bad, suck it up? **Kris Hayden**

Editors Note: We are not of German descent.

Hauled to jail

Thank you for saying what most Canadians feel about the Indians. I know that if I were to hold a protest and block a road, my butt would be hauled off to jail. **Bill Mullen**

We will find you

Small town, Small mind! Be careful what you publish, we will find you! **Warner**

We did not publish the email address of letters to protect their privacy.

For many more comments, see our e-edition morrismirror.com.

Your Mirror was inundated with emails and phone calls on this issue. We have put in some letters and edited others. We feel the frustration of many and keep in mind we are NOT against the Idle No More Movement or Natives in general, as long as they continue their non-violent ways. The emails and media request have gotten out of hand.

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RAY SHAW

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morrismirror.com

More letters to the editor received in the last few hours

Living near Indian Reserve

As a citizen of a small town in Ontario living near Indian reservations you are exactly right in your description of the natives . Congratulations on your excellent article . **Denise**

Do not relent

Congratulations on calling a spade a spade. Please do not relent. I was in Cayuga county yesterday wherein a native woman was bent (along with a busload of protesters, including an acknowledged communist, and anarchists, to intimidate the proceedings. I have been arrested twice by politically correct police enforcement, rather than treating criminals as criminals. Your truth lies in the fact Canadian Indians work by "consensus" so all are in collusion in these devious plans to shut down honest, productive and innocent citizens efforts and security. I am working with CANACE (Citizens for Charter Equality) to ensure criminals get treated AS criminals; that everyone be treated equal before the law. **Ted Harlson**

Cut colonial chains

Democracy is a changing fragile form of people Government born of Adversity and Paid for in Blood. Placing these people of God in religious ghettos (reservations) with genocidal laws has resulted in huge financial cost and the loss of human rights. Cutting these old colonial chains will free these people proving in Canada "We are One." Doing otherwise is to contend there is no rape. But I may be wrong.

Ray Shaw

Old school thoughts

I am completely offended by your thumbs down comments in the Morris Mirror, you should be ashamed of yourself in the negative and racist comments you are publishing and validtaing. I frequent your town when driving to the states and will continue to drive by becasue of your old school thoughts. Your words reflect negatively on your community, way to go Morris Mirror. Get educated and get with the times and be an example for your community. One day you will be ashamed that you at one time would publish something this blantantly racist, I feel bad for the children in your community----- glad when the racists come out of the closet so revealing.

Mad Mom Nancy Webster

Politically correct version

Thank you for your honest editorial regarding Canadian Indians. It is nice to see a news provider tell it "like it is" rather than give us the "politically correct" version of the Indian situation in this country. Please continue to stand up for a free press. We need more news people like you guys in this country.

Cal Paul

Bravo! I wish that more people would stop being politically correct and walking gingerly around natives. If this were happening in any other population sector, humour would be allowed and opinions respected if not agreed with. I'm glad your story made it to the Toronto Star. **T. McDonald**

Told the cold hard facts

To the writers in the Morris Mirror, congratulations on your stand about Idle No More and its corrupt stand. Living in Ontario not far from Camp Ipperwash I know exactly how your frustration with the Indians feels. I went to high school with some of these individuals, and all school meant to most of them was a cheque several times a year.

Even Chief Clarance Louis of BC tells his people to get up off there bums and get an education, a job, and stop bitching about something that happened a 100 or years ago. Great U Tube videos of him speaking on line.

Thank you for speaking out it is about time the Indians are told the cold hard facts of life. To me they are not anymore a special than I am and I am a 6 generation Canadian, whose ancestors came to this land because they were living in poverty in Scotland. It's time to end the reservations, and Indian Act. You are either a citizen of Canada or you aren't. Don't like it here move to the 3rd world country you say has it better than you.....and enjoy what they have. Bet it would be an attitude changer. **Sincerely S.H. Dobbie**

Comments hit home

Just read your comments in our local paper - The Lethbridge Herald. Finally someone has the guts to say what most everyone would like to say, but, because of 'political correctness' are too scared to speak up. From the threats you got it appears your comments really hit home. The truth sometimes hurts. **E. Hague**

Want to shake your hand

This means a lot to me as a small business owner in Manitoba. My son plays the odd hockey game in Morris and next time I am in town I will come down to your office to shake your hand. It is about time someone took a stand.

Calling a spade a spade

Appreciate calling a spade a spade. The Natives want to be partners in Canada but they really don't want that. **Doug Jones** via phone call from Wpg.

Healthy future for all of life

This letter is in response to the "Thumbs Down" comment printed in your paper, "…with regard to Canada's native community and those of Manitoba who are demanding unrealistic expectations of the government…" of January 14th, 2013. As with the many other readers of your paper, I am saddened though not surprised by the mindset behind the comment about the "Indians/ natives' who 'want it all but corruption and laziness prevent some of them from working for it' and their 'terroristic' behaviour.

Cont'd on page 2 e-Edition

More letters to the editor received in the last few hours

cont'd from page 1 e-edition

Future for life

The Idle No More movement is about an oppressed people finally finding the courage to stand up and express their concern over the future of the land, waters, and air, elements upon which all of life depends. This movement is NOT simply a concerned expression about the future of Anishinaabe, it is about the future of ALL human being across this great land. The movement started out to be about educating our youth as well as our fellow settler neighbours about the importance of learning our true common history. There is much to learn about certain aspects of our history that is often overlooked, facts that could do much to bring about greater mutual understanding.

For example, in my home community my cousin tells me how he chooses to 'misspeak' when Natural Resources people ask him where is from when he is fishing to feed his family. His reason is that if they knew he is from the reserve, he could end up in jail. There were laws which limited our people from participating in the marketplace because they had adapted so well to the buying and selling of produce. This law was introduced at the behest of the settler society who did not appreciate the competition. The law was used to forbid our diverse ways of prayer and of healing ourselves through ceremony, forbade the sharing of abundance among community members; laws were used to threaten parents into complying with the requirement that their children be taken to residential schools. Then when our people began to understand these laws and sought to improve our lives, the law was used to forbid our people from gathering to form meetings, we were forbidden to raise funds to pay a lawyer, we were forbidden to seek the advice of a lawyer over land issues. The list goes on ad infinitum. These laws were enforced with threat of prison, threat of injury, or death. And speaking of terrorism…

I am a student of the residential school system. For being the human being created by Gizhe-Manido with my own Ojibwe language and for abiding by the teachings about seeing the world and all of creation as sacred, I was punished, physically, mentally, spiritually…until I did forget that language. I was sexually assaulted and harassed by those who call themselves God's representatives here on earth. My belief in the sacredness of life was trampled by one that brainwashed me to learn to hate myself, my people. I have witnessed physical punishment in that school meted out to young children that should not happen to any human being. In all of the foster homes I then was sent to, I experienced sexual molestation from all the male members of those household. Finally, I was raped by a police officer and that, dear sir, was my initiation into your society. Yes, I do know terror and terrorism. I see the effects of years and generations of how such legitimized terrorism has impacted Anishinaabeg - ' Indians'.

Today my work as a social worker is about helping my community understand our history, to continue to help understand the mindset of this new society so that in the near future, we can overcome the effects of that terrorism and somehow do more than survive. We have a right to flourish in the way which Gizhe-Manido has meant for us to do. Our teachings have told us, amongst much more, that we are to take care of this beautiful Creation and maintain the relationship we have with all "other-than-human beings", with whom we share this life. Without a positive relationship with them, we will have none. While in residential school, I learned about the Creation stories and teachings of the settler society and wonder why they do not practice those beautiful teachings.

The Idle No More movement is about ensuring the existence of a healthy future for all of life, for all of our children and grandchildren. For three years Anishinabe kwe from the Roseau River First Nations community, have been walking for the Red River, praying for her good health even in these difficult times of unending pollution. We will continue to do this, this is what we have been instructed to do according to our belief system, respecting all of life and being grateful to all of Creation.

Lastly, I am a proud homeowner here in Morris. I pay my taxes as everyone else does. I support local businesses as much as I can though I could just as easily support the economies of Winnipeg or Winkler. I have been told that this community is not as racist as perhaps others in surrounding areas and I choose to believe this to be true. As my friend, the late Marjorie Heinrichs espoused, don't be afraid to get to know your neighbor - we have much to offer in so many ways.

Chi-miigwetch for listening and hearing my thoughts.

Violet Caibaiosai, B.A., M.A. (Pending)

Frustrated

What I read in your latest issue was a pleasant surprise. While there have been several negative comments towards you, I commend you for publicly speaking up for what many are thinking. We are surrounded by Idle No More everyday and what I believe is very one sided reporting on the movement as a whole. Thank You once again and let it be known that you have a ton of support. **B. Fergusson**

Your Mirror was inundated with hundreds of emails and phone calls on this issue of which 75% supported us. We have put in some letters and edited others. We feel the frustration of many and keep in mind we are NOT against the Idle No More Movement or Natives in general.

After 39 years of publishing, retirement is in the very near future along with a book with the working title, The Last Newspaper Man Standing. I appreciate the support that hundreds of you have given me however I am not the horse to hitch your wagon to (no I am not interested in running for politics) on this issue.

Reed

Best Chief in Canada tells it like it is

Chief Clarence Louie, Osoyoos BC speaking in Northern Alberta:



Speaking to a large aboriginal conference and some of the attendees, including a few who hold high office, have straggled in.

'I can't stand people who are late, he says into the microphone. Indian Time doesn't cut it.'
Some giggle, but no one is quite sure how far he is going to go. Just sit back and listen:

'My first rule for success is Show up on time.'
'My No. 2 rule for success is follow Rule No. 1.'
'If your life sucks. it's because you suck.'

'Quit your sniffling.'
'Join the real world. Go to school, or get a job.'
'Get off of welfare. Get off your butt.'

He pauses, seeming to gauge whether he dare, then does.
'People often say to me, How you doin'? Geez I'm working with Indians what do you think?'
Now they are openly laughing applauding. Clarence Louie is everything that was advertised and more.

'Our ancestors worked for a living, he says. So should you.'

He is, fortunately, aboriginal himself. If someone else stood up and said these things - the white columnist standing there with his mouth open, for example - you'd be seen as a racist. Instead, Chief Clarence Louie is seen, increasingly, as one of the most interesting and innovative native leaders in the country even though he avoids national politics.

He has come here to Fort McMurray because the aboriginal community needs, desperately, to start talking about economic development and what all this multibillion-dollar oil madness might mean, for good and for bad.

Clarence Louie is chief and CEO of the Osoyoos Band in British Columbia's South Okanagan. He is 44 years old, though he looks like he would have been an infant when he began his remarkable 20-year-run as chief.. He took a band that had been declared bankrupt and taken over by Indian Affairs and he has turned in into an inspiration.

In 2000, the band set a goal of becoming self-sufficient in five years. They're there.

The Osoyoos, 432 strong, own, among other things, a vineyard, a winery, a golf course and a tourist resort, and they are partners in the Baldy Mountain ski development. They have more businesses per capita than any other first nation in Canada.

There are not only enough jobs for everyone, there are so many jobs being created that there are now members of 13 other tribal communities working for the Osoyoos. The little band contributes $40-million a year to the area economy.

Remarkable 20 year run as Chief

Cont'd from page 1 e-editorial Best Chief in Canada

Chief Louie is tough. He is as proud of the fact that his band fires its own people as well as hires them. He has his mottos posted throughout the Rez. He believes there is no such thing as consensus, that there will always be those who disagree. And, he says, he is milquetoast compared to his own mother when it comes to how today's lazy aboriginal youth, almost exclusively male, should be dealt with.

Rent a plane, she told him, and fly them all to Iraq. Dump'em off and all the ones who make it back are keepers. Right on, Mom.
The message he has brought here to the Chipewyan, Dene and Cree who live around the oil sands is equally direct: 'Get involved, create jobs and meaningful jobs, not just window dressing for the oil companies.'

'The biggest employer,' he says, 'shouldn't be the band office.'

He also says the time has come to get over it. 'No more whining about 100-year-old failed experiments.' 'No foolishly looking to the Queen to protect rights.'

Louie says aboriginals here and along the Mackenzie Valley should not look at any sharing in development as rocking-chair money but as investment opportunity to create sustainable businesses. He wants them to move beyond entry-level jobs to real jobs they earn all the way to the boardrooms. He wants to see business manners develop: showing up on time, working extra hours. The business lunch, he says, should be drive through, and then right back at it.

'You're going to lose your language and culture faster in poverty than you will in economic development', he says to those who say he is ignoring tradition.

Tough talk, at times shocking talk given the audience, but on this day in this community, they took it and, judging by the response, they loved it.

Eighty per cent like what I have to say, Louie says, twenty per cent don't. I always say to the 20 per cent, 'Get over it.' 'Chances are you're never going to see me again and I'm never going to see you again' 'Get some counseling.'

The first step, he says, is all about leadership. He prides himself on being a stay-home chief who looks after the potholes in his own backyard and wastes no time running around fighting 100-year-old battles.

'The biggest challenge will be how you treat your own people.'

'Blaming government? That time is over.'

Editors Note: There you have it, the Osoyoos Band has a great leader who has made his people prosperous and proud to be native. Will the religious zealot who calls himself Mayor of Morris (plus his followers) now refer to Louie as a racist also???

The final word

Mayor van der Linde, the editor's comments were not racist in content but an expression of his opinion. He called a spade a spade and the last time I heard, expressing one's opinion in Canada is a right given to all Canadians whether you agree or not. The next time the former idiot chief Terry Nelson in your neck of the woods speaks of "whities" I will be expecting you to state your opinion saying it is racist. If you don''t like our right to freedom of speech then I would suggest you bundle you and your kin and venture back to your homeland and preach your values there. Have nothing but praise for editor Turcotte and he needs no apologizes to anyone especially you**. M. Gee**

Editors note: Could not have said it better myself - Thanks Reed